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Copy 410 of 9

25 June 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : Status of Actions Taken to Date on Project IDEALIST
Support to China Crisis

1. There follows a recital of the major actions taken by the Office of Special Activities since the special USIB meeting 22 June on the ChiCom coastal buildup.

a. An additional J-75 equipped U-2 aircraft departed Edwards Air Force Base on route to [redacted] staging team to support this aircraft movement is in place at [redacted]

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The estimated time of arrival of the U-2 aircraft is 26/0800Z.

b. The TACKLE detachment reported the evening of 23 June that both U-2 aircraft now in place there are again in full commission. On 24 June the TACKLE detachment was placed on a double alert for possible coastal coverage of Mainland China. A total of five canned missions for coastal coverage are now in the hands of the TACKLE detachment to enable them to take maximum advantage of any break in the forecast weather.

c. A planning meeting was held between the OSA staff and representatives of USAF Headquarters on 23 June. This meeting dealt principally with SAC support to this Agency in conversion training to J-57 U-2's for [redacted] and with steps necessary to establish a SAC-furnished U-2 capability at [redacted] Philippines. The [redacted] U-2 pilot departs 25 June for [redacted] via Agency black flight to commence conversion training. The second pilot will follow shortly after the arrival of the third U-2 aircraft 26 June. [redacted]

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USAF review(s) completed

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to provide interim coverage for a possible North Vietnam mission, should the weather break in that area.

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d. The USAF representatives to the 23 June meeting also reported action under way to move U-2 fuel to [] in sufficient quantity to support anticipated operations there. [] operations have been given the unclassified nickname TOP CAT.

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e. Preliminary arrangements were made with Air Force representatives on 23 June to conduct conversion training to Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio, Texas for an Edwards Air Force Base U-2 pilot so that a capability would exist to back-up current Cuba coverage requirements in the event of an aircraft malfunction in the CIA inventory at Edwards.

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f. Additionally, raw film to support accelerated operations [] shipped via military air [] Specialized equipment requirements have been re-examined for this mission and additional support has been requested as necessary.

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An augmentation of security personnel [] began 23 June, designed to give the unit a courier capability for accompanying mission take to the Air Force []

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Preliminary arrangements have been made with USAF to furnish fast mission take transport both []

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[] once the SAC/CIA detachment is in place there.

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2. It is anticipated that the SAC unit of U-2's [] will move to [] following completion of conversion training on the [] [] scheduled for flights this week. The Detachment Commander of the U-2 unit at Edwards Air Force Base, together with his principal security officer, depart Seattle the evening of 25 June as an advance party to meet with the [] and to proceed from there to the Philippines without delay to make preliminary arrangements with the Navy for the reception of the SAC/CIA unit. Additional steps will be reported as the situation develops.

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JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Acting Assistant Director
(Special Activities)
DD/R

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OSA:JACunningham, Jr./mg